

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /065 W

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R 070805Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4931

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR RO

SUBJ: ROMANIAN INTEREST IN FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM

REF: (A) BUCH 4556 (B) STATE 215575

1. SUMMARY. GOR STILL CONSIDERING OUR OFFER OF VISIT OF CORPS OF ENGINEER TEAM. DECISION EXPECTED WITHIN APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT OFFER BE HELD OPEN. END SUMMARY.

2. IN EFFORT TO EXPEDITE GOR RESPONSE TO OUR OFFER OF VISIT OF CROPS OF ENGINEER TEAM, EMBASSY WROTE TO IORGULESCU (PRES NAT COUNCIL ON WATERS) ON OCTOBER 1 INQUIRING ABOUT ROMANIA'S CONTINUED INTEREST. OUR LETTER REITERATED THAT PROPOSED VISIT WOULD BE WITHOUT OBLIGATION TO EITHER PARTY AND INDICATED OUR BELIEF THAT VISIT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL PRIOR TO GOR COMPLETION OF FLOOD CONTROL PLANS. (WE HAD HEARD INDEPENDENTLY FROM UNDP REP THAT FLOOD CONTROL PLAN NOW UNDERGOING INTER-MINISTERIAL REVIEW AND EXPECTED TO BE APPROVED BY DECEMBER.)

3. IORGULESCU RESPONDED TO OUR LETTER BY SUGGESTING MEETING WITH EMBOFF, WHICH HELD OCT 6. REGARDING CORPS OF ENGINEER VISIT, IORGULESCU STATED HE EXPECTED TO HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESPONSE FOR US THIS MONTH OR IN NOVEMBER AT LATEST. WHILE

HE COULD NOT NOW STATE WHAT THAT RESPONSE WOULD BE, HE THOUGHT IT PROBABLE THAT OUR OFFER WOULD BE ACCEPTED.

4. AS TO SCHEDULING, IORGULESCU THOUGHT SPRING OF NEXT YEAR WOULD REPRESENT MOST SUITABLE TIMING. AT THAT TIME TEAM WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW FIRST HAND CONDITIONS WHICH GIVE RISE TO FLOODING. WERE VISIT TO BE HELD NOW OR EVEN NEXT MONTH, IT WOULD BE LIMITED TO DISCUSSIONS WITHOUT BENEFIT OF MEANINGFUL ON-SITE INSPECTIONS.

5. FACT THAT GOR NOW IN PROCESS OF MOVING FLOOD CONTROL PROGRAM UP CHAIN-OF-COMMAND DID NOT, IN IORGULESCU'S VIEW, DIMINISH UNTILITY OF TEAM'S VISIT. ON CONTRARY, HE FELT THAT GOR'S FORMULATION OF BASIC FLOOD CONTROL STRATEGY WOULD OFFER SOUNDER BASIS FOR DISCUSSION. PROGRAM, HE POINTED OUT, WAS ONE TO BE UNDERTAKEN OVER COURSE OF 20 YEARS SO THAT THERE WAS AMPLE TIME TO MAKE NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS.

6. IORGULESCU AGAIN INQUIRED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF U.S. FINANCING OF ONE OR MORE FLOOD CONTROL NETWORKS. WITHOUT EXCLUDING THIS POSSIBILITY EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT EXTENSION OF THIS KIND OF ASSISTANCE WOULD REPRESENT MAJOR NEW POLICY DEPARTURE FOR USG.

7. EMBOFF USED OCCASION OF VISIT TO PASS TO IORGULESCU CORPS OF ENGINEER MANUALS. IORGULESCU EXPRESSED HIS DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THESE PUBLICATIONS, WHICH HE INDICATED WOULD BE MOST USEFUL. HE ASKED TO RECEIVE ANY ADDITIONAL MATERIALS, PARTICULARLY ANY RELATED TO FLOOD WARNING SYSTEMS.

8. COMMENT. WHILE GOR'S CONTINUED DELAY IN MAKING DEFINITIVE RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSAL IS DISAPPOINTING, EXPLANATION SEEMS TO BE PLAUSIBLE TO US. WE WOULD THEREFORE RECOMMEND HOLDING OPEN OFFER OF CROPS OF ENGINEER VISIT UNTIL GOR INFORMS US OF DECISION.

BARNES

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